

VZCZCXRO4243
RR RUEHMA RUEHPA
DE RUEHUJA #1625/01 2081155
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 271155Z JUL 07
FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0435
INFO RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 7509
RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 0482
RUEHCD/AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ 0477
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHMFIISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABUJA 001625

SIPDIS

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DOE FOR CAROLYN GAY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PREL NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIA: NEW MINISTERS ANNOUNCED

REF: ABUJA 1446

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¶1. (SBU) President Umaru Musa Yar'adua administered the oath of office to his 39-member cabinet on July 26 at the presidential villa in Abuja. The President gave a stern warning that the Administration will not tolerate corruption and indiscipline in the public service. The ministers were officially assigned their portfolios after a 3-week nationally televised screening by the Nigerian senate.

¶2. (SBU) As expected, the appointments represent a balance of the complex interests of several constituencies: geographical zones, gender, religion, ethnicity and party affiliations. The newly appointed Ministers of Finance, Labor, Health, Justice, Commerce and Information are generally considered well-qualified and a good fit for their new portfolios. On the other hand, the press has criticized the appointment of Ministers of Education, Defense, Transport, Foreign Affairs, Tourism, and the Federal Capital Territory, claiming the professional backgrounds of the new ministers are not appropriate to the portfolios. Like President Obasanjo before him, Yar'adua will retain the Minister of Energy portfolio; Ministers of State for Energy have been appointed to cover petroleum, gas and power.

¶3. (SBU) Bode Augusto, a nominee from Lagos State and former Special Adviser to President Obasanjo was rejected by the senators for his "contempt and arrogance." Reports indicate he told Senators during his screening that "his eight year-old daughter could answer the questions" he was being asked. The position of Minister of Works remains unfilled and it is believed this position will be held for Augusto's replacement, who will also come from Lagos State.

¶4. (SBU) The new ministers are:

Attorney General, Minister of Justice -- Michael Kaase Aondokaa

Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources -- Sayyadi Abba Ruma

Minister of State, Agriculture and Water Resources -- Adamu Maina

Waziri

Minister of Commerce and Industry -- Charles Chukwuma Ugwu
Minister of State, Commerce and Industry -- Ahmed Garba Bichi
Minister of Culture and Tourism -- Adetokunbo Kayode
Minister of State, Culture & Tourism -- Aliyu Idi Hong
Minister of Defense -- Mahmud Yayale Ahmed
Minister of State, Defense -- Fidelia Akuabata Njeze
Minister of Education -- Igwe Aja-Nwachukwu
Minister of State, Education (1) -- Agada Anthony Jerry
Minister of State, Education (2) -- Aishatu Jibril Dukku
Minister of Energy - President Umaru Musa Yar'adua
Minister of State, Energy (Power) -- Fatima Balarabe Ibrahim
Minister of State, Energy (Petroleum) -- Henry Odein Ajumogobia
Minister of State, Energy (Gas) -- Odusina Olatunde Emmanuel
Minister of Environment and Housing -- Halima Tayo Alao
Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT) -- Aliyu Modibbo Umar
Minister of State, Federal Capital Territory (FCT) -- John James Akpanudoedehe
Minister of Finance -- Shamsudeen Usman

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Minister of State, Finance -- Aderemi Babalola
Minister of Foreign Affairs -- Ojo Maduekwe
Minister of State, Foreign Affairs (1) -- Tijani Yahaya Kaura
Minister of State, Foreign Affairs (2) -- Bagudu M. Hirse
Minister of Health -- Adenike Grange
Minister of State, Health -- Gabriel Yakubu Aduku
Minister of Information and Communication -- John Ogar Odey
Minister of State, Information and Communication -- Ibrahim Dasuki
Nakade
Minister of Interior -- Godwin Abbe
Minister of State, Interior -- Hassan Haruna
Minister of Labor -- Hassan Mohammed Lawal
Minister of Mines and Steel Development -- Sarafa Tunji Isola
Minister of State, Mines and Steel Development -- Ahmed Mohammed
Gusau
Minister of Transport -- Deziani Alison-Madueke
Minister of State, Transport (2) -- John Okechukwu Emeka
Minister of Science and Technology -- Grace Ekpiwhre
Minister of Youth Development -- Akinlabi Olasunkanmi
Minister of Women Affairs -- Saudatu Usman Bungudu

Minister/Deputy Chairman National Planning Commission -- Muhammed
Sanusi Daggash

Minister/Chairman, National Sports Commission -- Abdulrahman Hassan
Gimba

GRIBBEN